

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

FAMOUS KNOCKOUT BLOW
INVENTED BY STARS OF RING

Dal Hawkins's Puzzling Left Scored Quickest Victory on Record, Fitz's Solar Plexus Won Him a Championship, Which Jeffries Took From Him With Blow Originally Meant for a "Stall," McCoy's Corkscrew Cut Up Tommy Ryan and Battling Nelson's "Scissors" Wore Many Opponents Down.

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He had a "fighting back," and when it wasn't being punched it was leading him to victory.

Dal made the acquaintance of some boxers who trained in a Frisco gymnasium. There was a darky among them. Darkies were a distinct novelty on the Coast then, the only three well known specimens being Charlie and Rufus Turner of Stockton and "Major" Walker of Oakland, who with perfect impartiality carried the banner for Republican and Democrat in all parades.

Dal boxed with the darkies in the gymnasium, but couldn't hit him because he didn't like to be hit, and so carried a high guard at all times. That high guard worried Dal. He tried various ways of getting over or under or around it. One day he reached over very slowly, poised his left hand in air only a few inches above the blocking arm, and dropped it suddenly with a twist of the wrist. The darky dropped to the floor and stayed there. Dal was the sensation of the moment. The other boxers wanted to know how he did it, but he wasn't quite sure himself, and, anyway, he wasn't telling. In private he practiced that punch.

Quickest Knockout on Record.

March 17, at Carson, on the afternoon of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight, which had been held at noon, Hawkins met Martin Flaherty, considered one of the best lightweights in the East. The bell rang and they came face to face. Dal reached out slowly a hesitating, tentative left, to which Martin paid no attention. The left suddenly dropped over Flaherty's guard. There was a sharp thud, like the sound of a cleaver on a bone. Flaherty was on the floor being counted out. Seven seconds had passed since the fight began.

Afterward Hawkins dropped clever Frank Erbe with the same punch, while Erbe was watching for it, and twice dropped Joe Gans in exactly the same way—all in the first round. Gans and Erbe both weathered the knockdowns and had their inning later. But Hawkins's left was the most famous blow of his time, with the effusive exception of the Fitzsimmons "solar plexus punch."

Very few people know of the connection of Mike Donovan—old time middleweight champion and long before Fitzsimmons appeared—with that punch.

As a companion of Bob Fitzsimmons when Fitz was middleweight champion and Mike Donovan was first to show "Freckled Bob" the "shift" and body punch that won him the world's heavyweight championship at Carson.

Fitzsimmons was on the road, knocking out all comers. He thought a hard punch was a joke, and he often delivered a playful slap on the jaw that knocked his opponent out for several hours. One day Donovan took Fitz aside and said: "Bob, you don't know your own strength. You're going to kill me with that punch."

Donovan was a big, strong fellow, and he said: "You do, and now you'll be sorry when it's too late. Now try it like this and punch them in the body."

Donovan tried the new way out that night and knocked his man "kicking" with the solar plexus punch. As Mike told me once, "Bob was as tickled as a kid with a new toy. He wanted to try it out on everybody after that."

Jeffries Won Title With Blow Meant for a "Stall."

Jim Jeffries knocked Bob Fitzsimmons out with a right hander on the chin. But the blow that won the fight for him was his "walking beam" left. Funny, that blow wasn't meant for a winner of fights. It was just designed by Jeff's wise handlers as a means of holding the rushing, slugging Fitzsimmons away. Jeffries was taught to bend over and cover his jaw with his right glove and extend his left like a snail's bowspit. They told him never to remove that protecting right from his jaw until Fitzsimmons grew weary from hitting him.

The fight might have gone quite differently but for the stiffened left arm. Fitzsimmons, rushing furiously, ran plumply against the solid end of it, where Jeff's big knuckles were doubled underneath the glove. Fitz might as well have run into the end of a 2x4 in the dark. He was knocked flat on his shoulders—blades and ribs dashed. That was the end of the fight won right there. He afterward used that extended, rigid left successfully in several fights.

Kid McCoy was famous for his "corkscrew punch." He devised and invented that punch for a purpose of his own. McCoy had worked as a

New blows in boxing are sometimes discovered by accident, or are developed because of some peculiarity in the boxer's build, or are invented for some particular purpose and afterward prove good enough for continuous use. Of course in fact there's no such thing as a "new" blow, after thousands of years of boxing. But some are new enough to astonish the present generation.

There was Dal Hawkins, for instance, a youngster born over in Virginia City, Nev., when they were taking silver out of the Comstock Lode by the ton. Dal was a slim youngster when he drifted to San Francisco.

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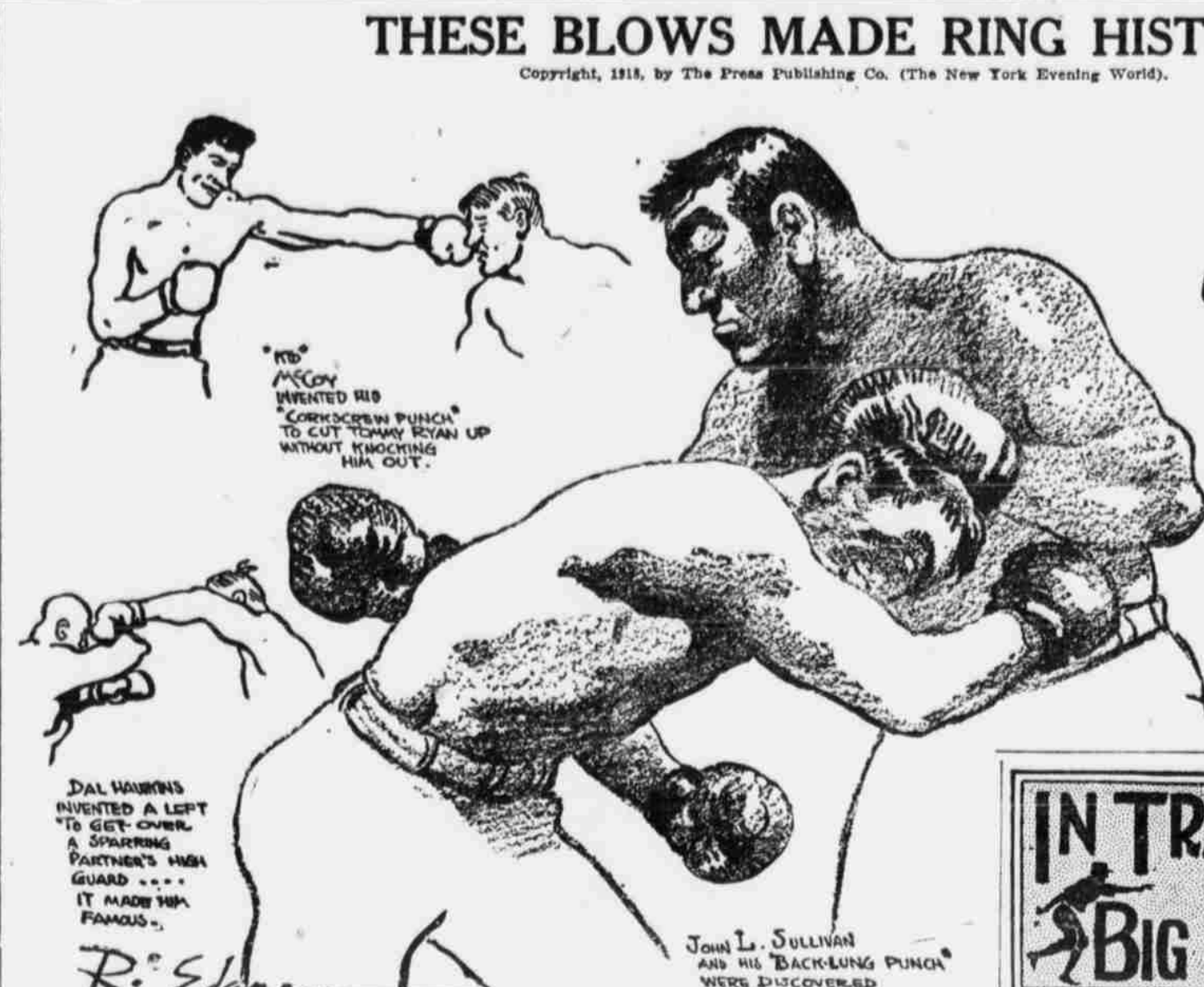
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INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE PLAYERS
ARE FREE AGENTS

National Commission Hands Down Important Decision Relative to Defunct Organization.

The disposition of the players belonging to the defunct International League has been settled by the National Commission. According to John K. Tener, President of the National League; Ban Johnson, President of the American League, and Garry Herrmann, the club-owners of the International League failed to live up to the rules of the National agreement and thereby forfeited their rights to the players.

The decision of the National Commission reads:

"As the result of the failure of the International League to arrange its circuit and adopt a schedule for the season of 1918, many of the reserve players of its clubs have applied to the commission relative to their status.

"In some instances it is represented that the respective clubs of complainants are in arrears to the players for 1917 salary, and in other cases the reserve clubs have failed to tender contracts for the coming season up to date. Investigation establishes that many of these complaints are true.

"In the mean time players of the International League teams who have received offers from other national agreement clubs have been unable to accept them pending the reorganization of the International League.

"The commission rules that, through its neglect to reorganize and protect the national agreement rights of its players, all rights to reserve players have been forfeited, and that all players of its respective clubs are therefore free agents and eligible to contract with other national agreement clubs except those drafted or recalled by major league clubs or purchased by major or minor league clubs.

"Contracts for 1918 entered into with other clubs by players of the International League before the promulgation of this ruling are declared void.

"This decision will have no effect on the Lofie case. The famous Frenchman was sold by the Lofie Club, owner of the Toronto Club, to the Boston Red Sox before the league was thrown out of existence.

However, it was whispered yesterday that Johnson will hand down a decision in favor of the hanging second baseman in a few days. Johnson was asked to lead the Indianapolis Club of the American Association.

Although only a one day fixture, the advance entry proves that no three or four day winter dog show could be superior in quality and numbers than the fixture that has been arranged by the Ladies' Charity Show Club, for the benefit of St. Mary's Free Hospital for Children, to be held at the First Regiment Armory, Park Avenue and 34th Street, Saturday, April 20. A factor that has helped the entry is that all classes and prizes, both of cash and cups, are on a level with the best. Entries are accepted by the American Kennel Club or not. This knowledge has attracted an entry from many novice exhibitors.

Monday is the last day on which an entry may be made, but entries made on that date will hold good. Entries may be sent or delivered to the Superintendent, George F. Foley, at No. 1309 Sanson Street, Philadelphia, or to his New York office, Room 291, No. 110 West 40th Street.

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MISS BURSTED
AND MISS GOSS
IN TENNIS FIELD

Women's National Indoor Lawn Tennis Title at Stake—Closing Match of Tourney at 7th Regiment Armory.

Miss Molla Bjurstedt and Miss Eleanor Goss clash in the final round of the women's national indoor lawn tennis championship to-day on the courts of the 7th Regiment Armory for the singles title.

Their encounter is regarded as representing the high mark of the women's game on the American courts.

Miss Marie Wagner, referee of the tournament and winner of the championship last season, has scheduled the match for 10:30 this morning.

The finals of the championship doubles, which will be played an hour later, is regarded as bringing together pairs of the highest type.

Miss Goss, who has been the champion for the last two years, is the favorite to win.

On the other hand, Miss Molla Bjurstedt, who played on the indoor courts of the 7th Regiment Armory last year, is the favorite to win.

The match will be played on the courts of the 7th Regiment Armory, which will be open to the public.</